

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 12, 2005. Claims 1 and 3 to 6, 8 and 9 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2 through 8 contain allowable subject matter. Based on that indication, the substance of allowable Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and similar amendments were to Claim 9, wherefore it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over U.S. Patent 6,962,399 (Anderson), and Claim 9 was rejected under § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 6,196,663 (Wetchler). The foregoing actions were taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of these rejections. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael K. O'Neill  
Attorney for Applicant  
Michael K. O'Neill  
Registration No. 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA\_MAIN 108655v1